

Application No.: 09/381,061
Amendment Dated March 31, 2004
Reply to Final Office Action dated: October 3, 2003

Attorney Docket No.: FUK-59

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-10 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 4-9 are rejected; and claims 3 and 10 are objected to.

Claims 1, 3, and 5-10 are amended hereby. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added thereto, nor are any new issues raised therein. Specifically, support for each and every change can be found within the claims as presented in the previous response.

The Examiner has chosen to maintain each and every prior art rejection set forth in the previous first Office Action. Applicants submit that the arguments set forth in the response mailed July 14, 2003, are still pertinent with respect to such prior art rejections and are hereby incorporated by reference thereto. Specifically, Applicants maintain that none of the cited references disclose or suggest the following, as recited in each of claims 1, 7, and 8:

the relative positioning and the directionality of a particular pore type being unique to that said particular pore type with respect to others of said pore types...

The uniqueness of positioning and directionality associated with each particular pore type is simply not disclosed or suggested by any of the cited references, alone or in combination.

Furthermore, independent claims 1, 7, and 8, as currently amended, each recite in part:

...the directionality of said fine rotational pores being approximately tangential to a particular circle concentric with the floating-unit center, the directionality of said auxiliary fine suppression pores being radially oriented toward the floating-unit center, ...

Applicants submit that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed, nor suggested by any of the cited references, alone or in combination.

The Examiner's arguments with respect to auxiliary fine suppression pores are predicated on an indication in Applicant's specification that states that vibration is suppressed by rotation of the substrate. Accordingly, the Examiner argues that "fine rotational pores configured for rotating the substrate body" inherently act as "auxiliary fine suppression pores configured for suppressing vibration of the substrate body". However, the Examiner has not given full weight to the uniqueness requirement with respect to the positioning and directionality of such different pore sets. In other words, two sets of pores, that have the same general positioning and directionality do not qualify as separate and unique sets under the claim terms. To accentuate the difference between rotation pores and vibration suppression pores, claims 1, 7, and 8 have been amended to indicate the specific directionality associated with these two types of pores (i.e., tangential versus radial). Accordingly, none of the cited references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the present invention as set forth in each of amended claims 1, 7, and 8.

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For all the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claims 1, 7, and 8, and those claims depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance and hereby respectfully request that each and every art rejection set forth in this Final Office Action be withdrawn.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 3 and 10 each set forth allowable subject matter, for which courtesy the Examiner is thanked. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 3 and 10 to place them in condition for allowance and to address the concerns that the Examiner had with respect to claim 10. As such, Applicants submit that claims 3 and 10 are now in condition for allowance, the allowance of which is hereby respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments that would speed prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at 260/485-6001.

Respectfully submitted,



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RJK/mdc10

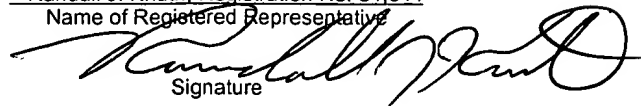
Encs: Amendments to the Claims
(9 Sheets; pp. 5-13)
Explanatory Cover Sheet Page 1
Petition for Extension of Time
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: March 31, 2004.

Randall J. Knuth, Registration No. 34,644
Name of Registered Representative



Signature

March 31, 2004
Date